

IN MEMORIAM OF THE LATE
PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDAR
SENGHOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great leader, the past President of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor who past away on December 20th, 2001. President Senghor was a educator, poet, statesman, and a friend of the United States of America.

President Senghor was born in a small town of Joal, Senegal in 1906. He received a scholarship to attend school in France where in 1935 he became the first African to receive the "Agrégé" (doctorate degree) in French language and literature.

After teaching for a number of years, he served in the French army during World War II (1935–1945), was captured, and spent two years in German prison camps. It was as a prisoner of war that he managed to write some of his best poetry. After the war, Senghor was recruited by the French Socialist Party and was later elected to represent Senegal in the National Assembly in Paris in which capacity he served until the French territories became independent. In 1960, France granted independence to Senegal and Leopold Senghor was elected its first president.

Few chief of states could match his political skill or his personal charisma. This was especially notable when President John F. Kennedy hosted President Senghor at a state visit in 1961 at the White House. As recorded in the memoirs of Ambassador of Senegal at that time—the Honorable Philip Kaiser—the two gentlemen developed a special bond. Ambassador Kaiser remarked "they were both intellectuals, both highly cultivated, both Catholic in countries predominantly Protestant or Moslem, and not the least of all, both creative, pragmatic politicians."

During the 1960s, President Senghor's friendship with the United States grew and was evident in his support for President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis. Washington strategist realized that Moscow could evade the U.S. naval blockade around Cuba by flying Soviet planes, with atomic warheads aboard, to Havana if they were able to land and refuel in Dakar, Senegal's capital. President Senghor agreed to Washington's request to deny the Russians landing rights in Dakar and made it clear that his relationship with President Kennedy was a crucial factor in his decision. President Senghor was also the first African leader to receive Peace Corps volunteers—a program highly touted by President Kennedy.

In 1978, President Senghor won Senegal's first multiparty election easily after successfully introducing amendments to the constitution to foster multiparty politics. He resigned in 1981, thus becoming the first leader of an independent African country to give up power voluntarily.

He has been acclaimed as one of the most astute thinkers of our time. He was one of three to develop the concept of "negritude" which refers to the distinctive culture shared by Africans and people of African ancestry around the world. He won several awards for

his poetry including the highly coveted PEN award and had been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature several times. He was admitted to Academie Francaise—the first black person to receive France's highest honor for enduring contribution to French life and letters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the life and the political accomplishments of a friend of the United States of America, the late President Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIAN M. OLIVER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Marion M. Oliver of South Carolina, a retired educator with numerous years in the public school systems. A dedicated servant to her fellow citizens, she has amassed many years of volunteer service to her community. I join the citizens of Orangeburg and Barnwell Counties in expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to her for a lifetime of outstanding service.

Mrs. Oliver was born February 17, 1912, in Bamberg County, South Carolina. She attended schools in through high school. After graduating high school she continue her education at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC. There she received a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, her desire to help others lead her to a thirty-seven year teaching career in Orangeburg and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina.

Though Mrs. Oliver has no biological children, she has raised two; Dwight and Pearl Ethel, as her own and has been a mentor to many others in her community. She has invested much of her time supporting her church and community through personal involvement and countless fundraisers. In addition to her leadership positions in her church, Sunday School Teacher and President of United Methodist Women, she is an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

At age eighty-nine, Mrs. Oliver is still active with United Methodist Women and several other organizations in her community including Cooperative Church Ministries of Orangeburg, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Retired Teachers' Association, and a local needbased service group called Senior Support Group. Because of her tireless dedication to church and community, Mrs. Oliver is now reaping the harvest of her efforts through the admiration she receives from her neighbors and appreciation she receives from those whose lives she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Marian M. Oliver for the immeasurable service she has offered to her community through her roles as a teacher, civic leader and volunteer. I sincerely thank Mrs. Oliver for her life-long commitment to helping others and wish her good luck and Godspeed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAY CAPPIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Gay Capps and thank her for her extraordinary contributions as County Clerk for San Miguel County. Her life-long dedication to both her job and the people of San Miguel County is matched only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day while at her post. She will always be remembered as an employee with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in her community. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that I, along with each and every person with whom she has worked and the people of San Miguel County, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her more than 50 years of public service.

Gay worked in the San Miguel County office for over 24 years, beginning as a typist at the age of 19 for County Clerk Shelly Clark. Gay was later appointed Deputy County Clerk by Mollie Rae Carver in 1964. She was then appointed County Clerk in 1970 and has run successfully for this important position to this day. For over 50 years, Gay has selflessly given her time, energy and unrelenting commitment to the people of San Miguel County. Although we are sad to lose her services, we are happy that she will now have more time to travel and relax with her husband George and enjoy her well deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Gay Capps is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to both her professional endeavors and the people of her community. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman, who has achieved extraordinary things in her career and for her community. It is my privilege to extend to her my congratulations on her retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SLAUGHTER-HOEFFEL-SMITH RESOLUTION ON THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues Rep. JOSEPH HOEFFEL and Rep. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, introduced a resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process leading up to the March 31, 2002 parliamentary elections.

In April 2001, I was troubled to learn about the Ukrainian Parliament's vote to remove reform-minded Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. This change in government came in the midst of the ongoing political turmoil resulting from allegations over the involvement of President Leonid Kuchma in the